

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 272358
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:TMARTINS

APPROVED BY S/S-O:TMARTINS

-----122202 142016Z /42

O 141901Z NOV 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 272358

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 18660 ACTION STATE NOV 14.

QUOTE S E C R E T LONDON 18660

NODIS.

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM UK

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV-CALLAGHAN LETTER ON ERW

REF: LONDON 18614

1. AS WE REPORTED EARLIER (REFTEL), BREZHNEV SENT NOVEMBER 9 LETTER TO CALLAGHAN ARGUING AGAINST DEPLOYMENT OF THE "NEUTRON BOMB." DURING ROUTINE NOVEMBER 11 DISCUSSION OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS AT FCO, PATRICK MOBERLY SHOWED AMBASSADOR SHULMAN A COPY OF THE LETTER.

2. THE MESSAGE WAS NEARLY FOUR PAGES LONG AND DEALT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE NEUTRON BOMB. ITS TONE WAS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 272358

BLUNT AND TOUGH. THE LETTER NOTED THAT SIGNATORIES OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT HAD PLEDGED TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN EUROPE. DEPLOYMENT OF NEUTRON BOMB WOULD NOT BE IN KEEPING WITH THAT PLEDGE. BREZHNEV SAID THIS ISSUE TOOK EUROPE TO A "POLITICAL CROSSROADS." HMG SHOULD REALIZE THAT IN RESPONDING TO US PRESSURE TO FORCE EUROPEANS TO ACCEPT DEPLOYMENT OF THE WEAPON IN THE FRG

"OR, SAY, BRITAIN," THE UK WOULD BE CHOOSING BETWEEN
DETENTE AND COOPERATION ON THE ONE HAND AND DISTRUST
AND ESCALATION ON THE OTHER. BREZHNEV HOPED HMG WOULD
MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE. HE ADDED THAT DEPLOYMENT OF NEW
AND INHUMANE WEAPONS IN EUROPE MIGHT NOT MATTER "TO
THOSE ACROSS THE OCEAN" WHO HAD NOT EXPERIENCED DIRECTLY
THE HORRORS OF MODERN WAR. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE OF
SUPREME CONCERN TO EUROPEANS. THE LETTER CONCLUDED BY
ASKING FOR CALLAGHAN'S THOUGHTS ON THE ISSUE. AS WE
REPORTED, THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR
NOT TO EXPECT AN EARLY REPLY.

3. MOBERLY ASKED SHULMAN IF US HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR
LETTER. SHULMAN REPLIED THAT NO SUCH MESSAGE HAD
ARRIVED BEFORE HE LEFT WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE WOULD
CHECK ON HIS RETURN AND LET MOBERLY KNOW IF BREZHNEV
HAD WRITTEN THE PRESIDENT ON THIS SUBJECT. BRITISH
WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IF US GETS WORD THAT OTHER
EUROPEAN LEADERS HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR MESSAGE.

BREWSTER UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE272358
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:TMARTINS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770007-0556
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771161/aaaacamx.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4edbf31a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 LONDON 18614
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 599583
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV-CALLAGHAN LETTER ON ERW
TAGS: PARM, UK, US
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4edbf31a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009